

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MONTEV 03512 041331Z

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ACTION ARA-10

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, UY

SUBJ: NEWS ARTICLE ON URUGUAYAN TRADE UNIONISTS

REF: STATE 263323

1. VARIOUS CT ELEMENTS HAVE UTILIZED THEIR SOURCES, INCLUDING LABOR UNIONS AND POLICE OFFICIALS, IN AN EFFORT TO OBTAIN PRECISE INFORMATION WITH RESPECT TO AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL CHARGES THAT 106 URUGUAYAN TRADE UNIONISTS WERE ON A HUNGER STRIKE TO PROTEST THEIR IMPRISONMENT.

2. BASED ON PRELIMINARY FINDINGS IT APPEARS THAT A GROUP OF TRADE UNIONISTS BEING HELD BY THE POLICE WAS ON A HUNGER STRIKE ON NOVEMBER 28. POLICE SOURCES ARE BEING CHECKED TO DETERMINE HOW LONG THE STRIKE LASTED OR IF IT CONTINUES. THE GROUP IN QUESTION IS REPORTEDLY BEING HELD IN A FORMER BASKETBALL ARENA WHERE POLICE HAVE, IN THE PAST YEAR, HELD DETAINEES FOR SHORT PERIODS ONLY. WE ARE ATTEMPTING TO VERIFY NUMBERS BUT DOUBT THAT 106 TRADE UNIONISTS ARE IMPRISONED SINCE LABOR CONTACTS DO NOT KNOW OF ANY MASSIVE OR LONG DETENTION OF LABOR FIGURES, INCLUDING THIS ALLEGED INSTANCE. ALSO, THE LATEST UNDERGROUND CNT (COMMUNIST TRADE CONFEDERATION) PUBLICATION COMPALINED OF ONLY ONE OF ITS PEOPLE BEING HELD. IN SUMMARY, THERE SIMPLY HASNOT BEEN ANY INDICATION OF SIZEABLE OR LONVM DETENTIONS OF TRADE UNIONISTS.

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3. INASMUCH AS THE GROUP IN QUESTION IS BEING HELD

BY THE POLICE, MISTREATMENT IS UNLIKELY. WITH RESPECT
TO DETENTIONS WITHOUT TRIAL OR THE USE OF TORTURE DURING
INTERROGATION, THE EMBASSY CAN ADD LITTLE BEYOND THAT
REPORTED IN A-142 OF SEPTEMBER 28 AND A-42 OF MARCH 23.

4. OUR INVESTIGATION INTO THIS LATEST AMNESTY CHARGE
IS CONTINUING AND A FURTHER REPORT WILL FOLLOW.

5. GDS.
SIRACUSA

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